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# Spotlight on Congress

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## CIA Documents Soviet Slave Labor

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In our country, if you disagree vehemently enough with the President's policies, you might end up on the cover of *Time* magazine. But in the Soviet Union, if you disagree with the Politburo, you're likely to end up draining swamps for the Yamal pipeline.

A new report from the Central Intelligence Agency confirms what many of us have always suspected—that much of the dirty work in Russia is performed by slave laborers. But we were unprepared for the scope of the tyranny. More than four million people from all over the world are involved in the Soviet slave system, a number that has increased substantially since the 1960s.

The CIA report is based upon extensive interviews with former inmates and satellite photos that pinpoint labor camps. It substantiates with documentary evidence the story told by Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn in *The Gulag Archipelago*.

The inmates of the 1,100 slave camps include common criminals, political dissidents, religious leaders, and an increasing number of citizens from other Communist bloc countries. Vietnam, for example, has been paying off its heavy war debt to the Soviet Union by exporting men, women and children to work on Russian projects. No wonder freedom-loving Vietnamese preferred

to become boat people rather than staying behind and being sent to Russia.

It should be no surprise that the Soviet Union relies so heavily upon slave labor. After all, the Communist system is completely inefficient—the Soviet Union can't even feed itself and consumer goods that we take for granted in the United States are considered luxuries over there. And the Soviet dictators are well-known for their brutality. The system, based as it is upon atheistic materialism, even encourages it. We've known over the years that the Soviet commissars wouldn't hesitate for a second to use any means, including slave labor, to further their goals.

What is surprising is the attitude of the West. Over and over again, American and European foreign leaders have chosen to look away when presented with proof of Soviet aggression. For some reason, they want to believe that the Communists are just like us. Well, they're not. They are brought up on a different system of morality in which power is the only goal.

President Reagan, at least, is fully aware of the Communist character. He knows that we in the West must be united in our firmness. There is no other way to protect ourselves against a society that still uses slave labor in the 20th Century. ■